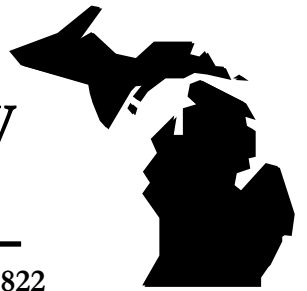




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**Senators Stabenow and Levin Challenge North Carolina
Senators to Friendly Stanley Cup Bet**

*Michigan Senators Offer Mackinac Island Fudge in Exchange for
North Carolinian Barbeque*

WASHINGTON--Before the start of this year's Stanley Cup Championship series between the Detroit Red Wings and the Carolina Hurricanes, Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Carl Levin (D-MI) made a bet with their North Carolina Senate colleagues, Jesse Helms and John Edwards.

Levin and Stabenow have put up two pounds of Mackinac fudge against two pounds of North Carolina barbecue offered by Helms and Edwards. The senators whose team wins the 2002 Stanley Cup will collect their prizes from their colleagues.

Despite the Red Wings' loss on Tuesday, Levin and Stabenow are confident they will be collecting on the bet.

"I'm looking forward to celebrating the Red Wings 10th Stanley Cup championship with a nice plate of the North Carolina barbecue," Stabenow said. "But I still might send Senators Helms and Edwards some of that delicious Mackinac Island fudge just to cheer them up."

"I'm not the least bit worried about having to hand over some of our delicious Mackinac Island Fudge," said Levin. "Our beloved Red Wings, led by captain Steve Yzerman, will weather the Hurricane and bring the Stanley Cup back to Michigan, where it belongs."

Mackinac Island's fudge is world-famous. The tradition goes back to the 1800s, when local fudge-makers started selling it on Main Street to the Islands' tourists.